

# Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation

*Staying Connected*



## Weston Collegiate Alumni News

IN THIS ISSUE

### President's Message

Dear Fellow Alumni,

I hope you are all enjoying the summer. It's hard to believe that July is already here and another school year will be getting started in just over a month.

The Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation has had a busy year. We teamed up with students to work on some great projects, along with making a few donations to other programs and events. We enlisted the help of the Design and Technology students to help us build a new podium for the auditorium. We also brought on Tash-Had, a fantastic grade 12 student, to build the Alumni Foundation a new website. I would highly suggest checking it out at [alumni.westonci.ca](http://alumni.westonci.ca), as Tash-Had did a phenomenal job.

Without the support of our amazing alumni, we would not be able to support the school in all the ways we do. Did you know that you have the opportunity to make donations to the Foundation using a credit card? It is simple, go to [canadahelps.org](http://canadahelps.org), type in Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation, select the name when it appears and click 'Donate Now', then follow the instructions. A charitable donation receipt will be issued by the Alumni Foundation for each gift received through this donation method.

The next few years are going to be big ones for the Alumni Foundation as we get closer to the 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Weston Collegiate Institute. We will be assembling a committee this fall to help with planning of the events for October 2017. If you are interested in joining us, we would be more than happy to have you. More info can be found on page 9.

Thank you again for all of your support.

Lesley Ross  
President, Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation  
Class of 2007

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### Note from the Editor:

Thank you to all of those who have contributed to this year's Alumni News. If you would like to contribute your memories from any decade at WCI or help the students of WCI, please email [lesley@westonalumni.com](mailto:lesley@westonalumni.com).

# Highlights of the 2015/2016 School Year at Weston

## Weston CI student selected for prestigious university program

A Weston CI student is one of just ten students from across the country to be selected by Queen's University for admission into its Accelerated Route to Medical School program (QuARMS). This September, Shaimaa H begins the innovative two-year program that provides a foundational education before entry into first year studies at Queen's University's School of Medicine.



While the process for acceptance was long and involved, Shaimaa is clearly a very deserving candidate for the program. She is the top International Baccalaureate Program (IB) graduate in her class this year and was also awarded the Dr. Iris May Marsh Memorial Award. The award, valued at \$48,000 over four years, is presented to three high school students pursuing undergraduate studies at Queen's University and recognizes academic ability, creative and original thinking, leadership skills and financial need.

"I still remember when Shaimaa began her journey in grade 9 IB, with a thirst for knowledge and an eagerness to be involved in extra-curricular activities so she could change the world," recalled Claudia Santos, IB teacher and guidance counselor at WCI.

Santos said that Shaimaa is a responsible and caring person, always smiling and willing to help others. She joined the WCI Charity Club and quickly became the leader of the club, enthusiastic about giving, sharing and helping others. She was also a member of the high school emergency response team (HSERT), Eco team, and the African Canadian Leadership Committee (ACLC). She has participated in various Math Contests, Science challenges, and she still finds time to help and support her community at Jane and Finch, where she works with women who want to learn how to sew their own clothing.

"We are all so proud of Shaimaa for having the resiliency and the tenacity to pursue her passion," said Santos. These qualities will undoubtedly serve her well at Queen's and in the future.

Article originally appeared on the Toronto District School Board website: <http://bit.ly/29ayTzV>

## Congratulations to our 2016 WCAF Orlando Martini Award Recipients

The WCAF Orlando Martini Award is awarded to deserving Grade 11 students, who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, as well as good citizenship, and have made a significant contribution to extracurricular activities at WCI.

Congratulations to this year's recipients Debbie Dada and Miduran Murugathasan.

## Weston CI Best Buddies Program among top 25 in Canada

The Best Buddies Program at Weston CI has been chosen as one of the top 25 programs of its kind in the country. Led by Child and Youth Worker Nancy Marshall, the Weston Best Buddies team supports meaningful friendships and leadership opportunities for students.

Steven Pinnock, Executive Director of Best Buddies Canada, visited the school on February 11 to present the award for going beyond the expectations of the program. "Promoting inclusion and friendship for students with special needs is very important in all schools," he said, lauding staff for "an incredible job running Best Buddies at (Weston)."

"Since the Best Buddies program first began at Weston CI in 2010, we have seen an incredible difference in the atmosphere of the school," said Special Education Assistant Curriculum Leader Cristina Marques. "Our students on the Autism Spectrum report they feel safe, included and happy in our school environment."

The program sees students with exceptionalities paired with other students at the school for a period of one year. The buddies keep in touch throughout the year, meeting regularly for various activities. The friendships formed enhance the lives of all involved and help to build acceptance in the school and in the community.

There are some 450 Best Buddies chapters nationwide.

Article originally appeared on the Toronto District School Board website: <http://bit.ly/2a3CduH>

## A love for Web Design

By Tash-had Saqif

It was early 2015 when two teachers, Mr. Todorovich and Mr. Smith, encouraged me to participate in the TDSB Skills Competition for Web Development.

“Know anything about web development?” Mr. Todorovich asked me in the halls.

“Kind of” I replied.

“Great, there’s a competition on Wednesday, would you like to participate?”

“Sure” I responded.

Truthfully, I knew not a thing about web development. I mean, I’ve done programming before, but nothing remotely close to making websites. “I’ll just try to learn it over the weekend” I thought. However, a quick look at my watch made me realize something; it was Tuesday. I spent every minute of that night trying to learn everything I could about making websites, and went on to win Gold the following day. I then had two months to prepare for the provincial competition, which took place in Waterloo. I ended up winning Silver in Ontario.

Fast forward to now: I have earned 2 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze medal(s) in web development competitions.

However, what was more important to me, was the fact that I found a new passion – making websites. In no time, I began developing small projects like *Posl* – an uplifting news website, or *AutoDuel* – a priority based to-do list generator. Today, I have almost a dozen different websites I’ve worked on, and also had the privilege of building websites for Weston Collegiate Institute’s IB program, Special High Skills Major Manufacturing Program, and Special High Skills Majors Sports/Media program. I was even connected with the Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation, and got the pleasure of building their website too.

Mr. Smith and WCI have helped me discover one of my passions – one that I can do for days without ever getting bored. As I leave to study Computer Science at university, I carry with me a portfolio packed with projects, awards, and experience, none of which would have been possible had it not been for the efforts of my teacher, and my school – efforts that I will be forever grateful for as they are the reason that I leave with some direction in life.

## A Multicultural Twist at Weston

By Miduran Murugathan, grade 11 IB

On Wednesday, May 25, 2016, People from near and far came to the annual 11<sup>th</sup> "A Taste of Weston IB with a Multicultural Twist" at Weston C.I. There were many people came that night such as currents students, friends and families, retired and current Weston staff. Most importantly, the graduates and the alumni came out and showed their support to the IB program at Weston.

This event is avery important to the school because it is the time where everyone celebrates the grade 12 IBs' success in completing the Diploma Program and wishing them good luck in their academic careers.

The school cafeteria was turned into a magnificent multicultural fiesta. Everyone was dressed in their beautiful and colourful cultural attire. During the event, the student committee had set up several games such as family feud, match the flag, a multicultural scavenger hunt and many more. In addition, there was a photo booth which was a success because everyone wanted to cherish the moment. At the south end of the cafeteria, there was a variety of multicultural dishes and delicious desserts.

Later, there was a fabulous fashion show held by the students which show cased their wonderful fashions from around the world. Finally, at the second half of the night, students performed their marvelous talents in the talent show. The talent show included singing, dancing, and much more. In addition, the profits raised from the night are directed towards IB scholarships, the annual Tamakwa trip, and other student excursions, and material for enriched curriculum activities.

Grade 12 IB graduate, Harshita Annapareddy commented, "It's definitely very different experiencing multi night as a senior. Since on one hand you're relieved that you're done IB exams, but on the other hand, you know that these moments will be your last memories at Weston and you want to make the most of the time you have left."

Grade 10 Pre-IB program, Prachi Dalal said, "Ok well the talent show and food buffet was very well organized. I thought the group pictures at the map were one of the best parts; they really captured the concept of multiculturalism at Weston. The timing was perfect too it did not end too early or too late. It was set up very nicely as well and I like all the tables and stuff too."

Grade 9 Pre-IB program, Usman Sheikh stated, "Weston's 2016 IB Multicultural Night was a great experience for me and I'm pretty sure my fellow peers too. It was a memorable night where you spent it with people who accept you for who you are."

Furthermore, the overall ambiance of the night exactly meets the expectations when you think of multicultural night. The cafeteria was filled an amazing smell of fresh food. The night in general is the staple of Weston, where it brings people from all ages together to have swell time.





## Sports at Weston CI

By Lilo Noort

Without a doubt, sports teams bring a school together. The entire school mindlessly supports their school's team and are with them through thick and thin. The 2015-2016 school year was an astonishing one for sports at Weston. Junior and senior boys and girls did exceptionally well on every team they played on. As usual Weston fought hard and had a stellar athletic season.

### Girls Rugby

This year fall season of rugby was extremely successful.

The girls' team fought tirelessly in their tournament and made it to the championship game in the fall tournament. Unfortunately, the girls lost this match and did not move on to the city championship.



### Senior Boys Rugby

The senior boys played a great season, winning two games and losing three. Sadly, this year the boys did not make it to the playoffs, but with a large portion of the team playing club this year, they hope to take home the gold next year.

### Girls Basketball

The girls' basketball team played a remarkable season, making it to the semi-finals. The girls give their all in every game they play and always leave their audience on the edge of their seats. The team is sure that next year they are going to work even harder and hopefully make it all the way to cities.



### Boys indoor Soccer

Indoor soccer is a fairly new sport at Weston but has shocked the school by its great success. The team is made up of junior and senior boys, and they never fail to make other schools run for their money.

The varsity boy's indoor soccer destroyed their competition, have an amazing 12 wins, 2 ties, and 2 losses the boys won both north and west region championship games, winning the school a banner to put in the gymnasium. Without a doubt, the whole school was ecstatic and surprised the boys made it as far as they did. The boys fought tirelessly and made everyone in the school immensely proud of their school, and its stellar indoor soccer team.



### Senior Boys Volleyball

The senior boys' volleyball team played a tough season with two wins and three losses. However, the Weston boys kept fighting and eventually made it to a quarterfinals match. Unfortunately, they did not win. The boys played extremely hard and worked as a team to get through everything. Without a doubt, the whole school is certain that the boys will do much better next season, and are ecstatic to see games in the future.

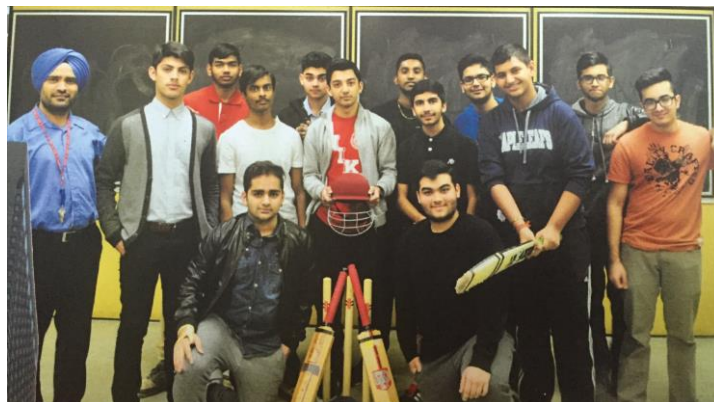
### Girls Volleyball

Weston's spectacular girls played an amazing season of volleyball. The girls won six games and lost four of their games, advancing to the city championships. The girls fought hard and played a difficult set of games in the championships. Sadly, the girls lost in the cities but ended up in second place overall. The varsity girls never fail to impress in any of their games. Although they didn't take home the gold this year, they are determined to go all the way next season.



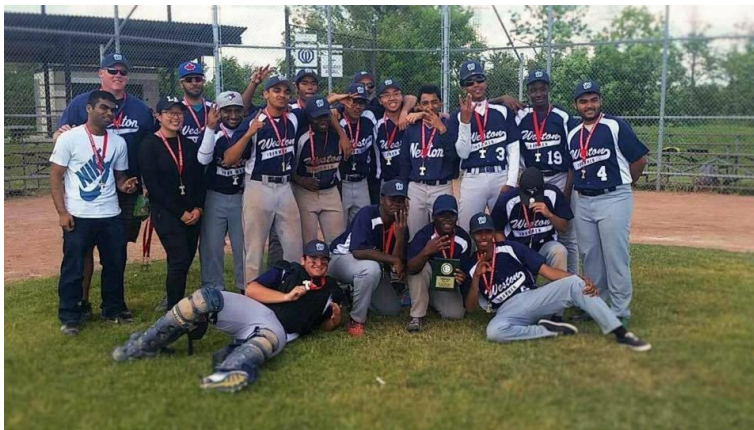
### Indoor Cricket

The cricket team at Weston has always been amazing! For a number of years, the team was one of the best in the region. This year the indoor cricket team made it all the way to the playoffs, but sadly lost in the first round. The team left a legacy at Weston when in 2014 they dominated their competition with a team made up of mostly rookies. The team hopes to continue this legacy when they come back strong next season.



### Boys Baseball

The boy's baseball team also had an amazing season. The boys won three games, lost two and won all of their playoff games! The Weston boys ended up winning the Tier 2 Championship. Their stellar work was rewarded with another banner for the gymnasium and endless bragging rights for the school and team. With how well these boys did this year, it wouldn't be a surprise if one day some of them are playing for the Blue Jays!



### Girls Slow Pitch

Varsity girls' slow pitch always plays a great season, and never fails to impress. The team always does everything they can to win and when watching a game, you can tell how much the girls love playing their sport. This year the girls won three games and lost three, landing them in fourth place in the west region.

### Junior Boys Soccer

The junior boys had a killer soccer season, winning two games and losing two in their regular season, giving them an overall ranking of third in the northwest region! After their regular season concluded, the boys move on to the quarterfinals, playing Richview C.I. The boys were neck and neck and unfortunately lost this game in penalties. All the junior boys show on and off the field how passionate they are about their sport. The juniors always play amazing games and contribute greatly to Weston's school spirit.



### Senior Boys Soccer

The boy's senior soccer team never fails to play a stellar season. Every game they've ever played has been jam packed with excitement, and the school adores home games when we can see our boys play tirelessly for the school.

Weston's senior boys dominated the soccer field, as usual. This year the senior boys won ten games, tied 2 and lost six games. Unfortunately, the boys lost in the West Region finals but powered through and made it to the cities. Weston's favorite boys won the semi-final game in the city championships, but sadly lost in the finals.



### Girls Soccer

The girls' soccer team played a memorable season. The girls were faced with many setbacks, but still managed to push through and play a great season. With one win one tie and four losses, Weston had a tough season but never gave up. On and off the field the girls held their heads up high and made sure everyone knew just how hard they worked. The girls are determined to come back strong next season and take home the gold.



Sports at Weston, without a doubt bring the entire school together. Without them the school year would not feel right. Our Weston athletes put their all into every game they play and exhibit a passion for their sport.

However, Weston's spectacular athletes would not be able to do anything without their amazing coaches, teachers and teammates.

On behalf of my fellow Weston students and athletes, I want to thank all our coaches and teachers for taking the time to help us improve in our sport. Without you none of our beloved teams would be possible. You make all our athletic endeavors possible, we would not be able to do what we do without you. Here is to a great athletic season, and here is to every athlete, coach and student alike.

Keep playing hard Weston.



**You're Invited**  
to celebrate the  
**160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
of  
**Weston Collegiate Institute**  
**October 2017**

More details to follow: [alumni.westonci.ca](http://alumni.westonci.ca)

Want to get involved?  
Please email [info@westonalumni.com](mailto:info@westonalumni.com)

# Decade News

## 1950s/1960s

By Doug Musselwhite

A group of Weston grads and a few of their spouses got together for lunch at the Crossroads Restaurant in Elmira on October 20, 2015. If you would like to join us for this annual event you can email Gary & Bonnie Holloway at [gbholloway@bell.net](mailto:gbholloway@bell.net).



**Back Row:** Bob Dennison & Doug Musselwhite

**2nd Row:** Charlie Corry, Linda (Musselwhite) Long, Sylvia (Papa) Danzie, Marg (Gale) Wightman, Alex Durrant, Bonnie (Lamont) Holloway & Gary Holloway

**Front Row:** George Grainger, Carol (Ambler) Coon, Helen (Bowman) Grainger, Doreen (Boden) Dennison, June (Anderson) Musselwhite, Cathie (McKay) Durrant, Janice Rouse, Jim Rouse & Ethel (Mertens) Corry.

# Tributes

## James Cecil Bradford

On April 9, 2016, the Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation (WCAF) lost one of its unsung, but very distinguished World War II Veterans with the passing of flying Officer James Cecil Bradford at the age of 92.

James was the identical twin brother of Robert William Bradford C.M. who received the Order of Canada in 1989 for his aviation paintings and his work in preserving Canada's proud aviation history. Both James and Robert played vital roles in the training of bomber crews during the final years of World War II by flying Navigators, Bomb Aimers, Wireless Operators etc. on a multitude of training missions. While the task of training bomber crews may sound somewhat mundane, one should not overlook the accomplishments of Allied Bomber attacks such as the one featured in the movie, the Dam Busters.

The Bradford twins grew up in the Fairbank area of the former York Township where they attended Briar Hill Public School during the early days of the "Hungry Thirties". Subsequently, they enrolled in the Vocational Program at Weston Collegiate and Vocational School (WCVS) in September 1938. They remained at the School until 1940 at which time financial hardship at home caused them to enter the workforce. In the fall of 1941, shortly before their 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday, they joined the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) and began studies under the War Emergency Training Plan (WETP) to enrich their education in Science, Mathematics and English at Central Technical School (CTS) in Toronto. Soon after joining the RCAF, the Bradford twins were separated – James was sent to Central Canada and Robert to Western Canada for training.



Both twins wanted to be pilots and fortunately they both survived the "washout rate". Robert received his pilot's wings and commission on Remembrance Day 1943, at Vulcan, Alberta, and James got his pilot's wings and commission at Centralia, Ontario shortly thereafter. James was posted to RCAF No.2 Training Command in Rivers, Manitoba then to RCAF No. 4 Training Command at RCAF Fort MacLeod, Alberta. His last posting was to RCAF Claresholm, Alberta, in the same training Command. James tried very hard to get an Overseas Posting where he felt he could make a better contribution to the War Effort – but the RCAF had other ideas and felt that his skills would be much more useful in the Training Commands of the British Commonwealth Air Training plan (BCATP). James even tried to join the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN), Air Arm (much like Britain's Royal Navy's Fleet Air Arm). The RCN readily accepted James, but the RCAF refused to let him go. James settled into his role with the RCAF and served with his usual enthusiasm and devotion to duty. Robert meantime was posted overseas where he was attached to the Royal Air Force (RAF) and flew at RAF Babdown Farm in Gloucester, (RAF) Cark in Lancashire and finally at RAF Jurby on the Isle of Man in the Irish Sea. Strangely, most of the flying that Robert did was very similar to James's work, the flying of Navigators bomb aimers and Wireless Operators on training missions, but in Robert's case, with obsolete bombers.

Following the defeat of Germany, (May 7, 1945, V.E. Day) both James and Robert volunteered for services in the war with Japan. However, atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki quickly ended that plan.

James worked as a commercial artist for the Drug Trading Company in Toronto before joining the RCAF in 1941 and he re-joined that Company after receiving an honourable discharge from the RCAF in 1945. In September 1948, James and his fiancée, the late Marion Davison, were married by her father, a United Church Minister. They lived in the Fairbank area of Toronto for three years after their wedding (1948-1951) and in 1951 moved to Thistleton where they remained until 1994. In 1994 they retired to Shelburne, Ontario.



In 1967, James now age 43, decided to change his profession from commercial artist to a teacher of art. Thus began a long and difficult period of further enriching his education and credentials to achieve that goal. He first had to complete grades 12 and 13 which he accomplished by going to night school at Burnhamthorp Collegiate in Etobicoke. He received an annual Teaching Certificate from the Faculty of Education in Toronto in 1968. In 1971, he enrolled in an arduous night school program at York University. His determination over a ten year period resulted in his being awarded his B.A in 1981.

James high school teaching career spanned a period of 18 years that started in September 1968 and finished in June 1988. For his first year, he was assigned to Downsview Collegiate (September 1968 – June 1969), and for the other 17 years, he was assigned to C.W. Jeffries Collegiate (September 1969 – June 1986). Both Schools are located in the former City of North York. James' students remember him with affection and with gratitude for his encouraging manner. He taught the joy of Art for 18 years and no doubt was grateful for his decision to become an art teacher at the age of 43.

Following a brief stay in Bethel Hospice in Inglewood (Caledon) Ontario, James Cecil Bradford passed away peacefully on April 9, 2016 at the age of 92. He was predeceased by his wife Marion and is survived by his daughter Janice (Bradford) Vernon and son Mark Bradford.

Editor's Note: Information for his tribute was provided by the families of James and Robert Bradford and it was assembled by Orlando Martini.

### **Mary Laverne Morris, B.A., Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist**

[Reprinted with the kind permission of the Morris family](#)

January 19, 1931 to February 21, 2016

Daughter of the late Alice Hooper and Wreford Hewson of Malton, sister of Albert Hewson, great-great-granddaughter of Joseph Sheard, beloved wife of Rev. Paul H. Morris, mother of Stephen Morris (Sandra) of Brantford, Anna Bailey (Bradley) of Barrie, Margaret Teixeira (Carlos) of Mississauga, Grace Elizabeth Pelot (deceased, James) of Barrie and Robert John Morris (deceased), grandmother of Ryan, David, Benjamin and Joshua Teixeira, Andrew and Sharon Morris, Alice and Samuel Pelot and Jennifer Bailey and great-grandmother of Ethan and Kaelyn Morris in Calgary.

Mary won top prizes at the Brampton Music Festivals and for 5 years, kept first place academically at Weston Collegiate. She graduated from Victoria University in 1952 and returned to studies at Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (University of Toronto) in 1967. She completed her Doctoral degree in Psychology in 1978.

Mary served at 3 youth clinics, taught several courses at OISE while developing her extensive private practice at home. She edited books and international journals and was authoring a valuable book on healing the hurts from early childhood sexual abuse which may yet be finished.

Mary excelled at homemaking in a succession of manses and finally our own home for 43 years in Etobicoke. She also enjoyed the cottages the family built on Horn Lane in the Almaguin Highlands. World travelling added a global viewpoint to this remarkable woman who coped with Parkinson's Disease. She will be greatly missed by all who were helped by her therapy and she will continue to have a helpful place by donating her body to McMaster University for medical research and teaching.

A service celebrating her life was held at Humbervale United Church on Saturday, March 5, 2016.

## Larry Rogers

By John Solarski

Early this year we were saddened to learn that one of our past principals at Weston Collegiate had passed away over the Christmas – New Year Holiday period. News of Larry Rogers passing came as a surprise to many of us who had seen him only a few months earlier. Since his retirement 20 years ago, Larry divided his time between his home in Toronto and his properties in Panama and Florida.

Mr. Rogers arrived at Weston assuming the position of principal in September of 1987, having been transferred from York Memorial Collegiate. This was Larry's second assignment at Weston where he began his career as an educator in the 1960's. He had served the school as a teacher, counselor and Head of the Guidance Department before moving into administration as a vice-principal at George Harvey Secondary School.

Larry came into education with a background in business so it came as no surprise that he addressed his administrative duties with a practical, no nonsense approach, always looking for the most efficient ways of getting things done. During his initial term of service at Weston, Larry converted the school time table from a full year format to the semester system. While undertaking studies for his Masters degree in Education, Larry investigated systems that provided an optimum learning experience for the students as well as a model that created the most effective instruction and methods of evaluation for the teachers. When Weston became a semester school in the early 1970's it was one of the first in the province of Ontario to do so.

In the early 1990's, following various events and circumstances, Weston's enrollment began to decline. It was Larry's vision and entrepreneurial sense that shaped the future of the school. He recognized that the school had to distinguish itself as being unique in its offerings. As a result, he went about bringing in a number of specialty programs addressing the needs of both adolescent students and adult learners.

Three distinct Adult Learning Programs were introduced: Dental Assisting; Business; and Travel & Tourism. All three programs had a practical component that saw the Dental program offering service to the community with an on-site Dental clinic; the Travel & Tourism program operating a Golliger's travel agency in the school; and the Business program was linked with the Co-operative Education Department which resulted in office placements throughout the city.

For the adolescent learners, Larry negotiated to bring the prestigious International Baccalaureate Program to Weston making it only the second public school in the GTA to offer the world renowned and globally recognized program.

Both of these initiatives broadened the intake area for the school, changing Weston from a local community school to one that attracted students from throughout the GTA.

Mr. Rogers was a supporter and a promoter of all aspects of the school community. He expected commitment and productivity from teachers and students alike that resulted in academic excellence as well as extra-curricular achievement. He was then the first to lead in the celebration of both. It is without a doubt that Larry's vision and direction shaped the face and secured the future of Weston Collegiate.



## George Frederick (Fred) Fox

It is with heavy hearts we announce the passing of our husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather at the age of 84. Fred passed away at Stevenson Memorial Hospital in Alliston after a courageous battle with cancer.

He was the beloved husband of 59 years to Mary (Broughton). Father to Russell (Sheila), Heather Harris (Greg), Ted (Lisa) and Alexandra who predeceased her father in 1977 at the age of 6, grandfather to Teddy, Cassie, Curtis, Sarah, Tommy and Melisa and great grandfather to Todd. Brother to Marilyn (Owen Calhoun) and predeceased by Don (1989).

Fred was an avid golfer and as a member of the Toronto Board of Trade Golf Club in Woodbridge held a single digit handicap for many years. After raising their family in Kleinburg for 20 years, he and Mary made their retirement home in Briar Hill in Alliston on the golf course and enjoyed the Florida lifestyle in Stuart for 15 restful years. He was an avid Blue Jay fan and as one of the first season ticket holders, they rarely missed a game. He was a proud Rotarian and served the Kleinburg club for many many years. Fred travelled the world with Mary and said he had no regrets. His bucket was emptied.

A celebration of life was held in Alliston on Saturday, May 28.

## Vera Peters and the fight against breast cancer

By Dr. Charles Hayter

Today, women with early breast cancer are usually treated with breast conserving therapy (removal of the cancerous lump followed by radiation). This approach is a relatively recent innovation that only became commonplace in the 1990s. Before then, women were subjected to radical mastectomies, an operation that cured cancer but left women disfigured and in pain. Toronto's Dr. M. Vera Peters played a pivotal role in this transition.

Vera Peters was born in 1911 on a farm in Thistletown, outside Toronto. She entered the University of Toronto at age 17 and, after a brief period studying math and physics, switched to medicine – one of only 10 women in a class of over 100. She supported her studies by waitressing on a cruise ship, where she met her future husband, Ken Lobb, a high school physical education teacher.

While she was a medical student, Peters' mother died of breast cancer. This event was a turning point in her life. Through her mother's illness, she met her future mentor, Dr. Gordon Richards, the head of radiotherapy at Toronto General Hospital. Peters had been fascinated by Richards' lectures, and her personal connection through her mother's illness crystallized her desire to enter the new field of radiation oncology.



Dr. Peters adjusting a patient for radiotherapy. Collection of Dr. Charles Hayter.



After graduating from medical school in 1934, Peters joined Richards first as his apprentice and later as his assistant. She was to spend the remainder of her career in Toronto – first at Toronto General, later at Princess Margaret Hospital.

Her first major scientific contribution occurred in 1947. Richards asked her to review the hospital's experience with Hodgkin's disease. Peters embarked on a review of the associated cases treated at Toronto General and, in 1950, published a landmark paper that demonstrated that Hodgkin's disease could be cured with radiotherapy.

She also found that the extent of the disease at the time of diagnosis was the most important factor influencing survival. Her staging classification was the foundation for the staging system still used today. While her results were met with skepticism, most physicians eventually became convinced that Hodgkin's disease was curable.

Peters' second major contribution was in breast cancer treatment. When she began her career, the standard treatment for breast cancer was the radical mastectomy – the removal of the breast, skin, nipple, tissues in the armpit and chest muscles. As a woman, she was sensitive not only to the physical ravages of mastectomy, but also to what she called the "associated emotional trauma." She witnessed the devastating effects on body image, sexuality and femininity.

Peters became determined to find a gentler approach. She was aware that, over the years, a number of Toronto women had been treated with lumpectomy (removal of the tumour) followed by radiation, but it was unknown whether this procedure cured as many women as mastectomy. With quiet resolve, she embarked singlehandedly on a review of 8,000 cases of breast cancer treated in Toronto since 1939 and found that women treated with lumpectomy and radiation had the same cure rate as women who had undergone mastectomy. Her findings – first presented in 1975 – were met with hostility by the surgical establishment. It was only when a large American study confirming her results was published in 1985 that surgical practice slowly started to change.

Peters retired from Princess Margaret in 1976 and started a consulting practice in Oakville. In 1984, she was herself diagnosed with breast cancer and, true to her convictions, was treated with lumpectomy. Nine years later, at the age of 82, she was diagnosed with lung cancer. She received palliative radiotherapy and died on October 1, 1993 at the hospital where she had spent most of her career – Princess Margaret.

During her lifetime and after, Peters was widely recognized for her achievements. In 1975, she was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada. In 2010, she was inducted posthumously into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame. The Peters-Boyd Academy at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Medicine is named in her honour.

Peters is remembered by her former students not only as a compassionate physician who always put patients first, but also as a pioneering role model at a time when there were few women in the top ranks of medicine.

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Dr. Charles Hayter is a staff radiation oncologist at Mississauga's Peel Regional Cancer Centre and Associate Professor of Radiation Oncology at the University of Toronto. He is the author of *Radical*, a play about Vera Peters. Acknowledgements: Dr. Jenny Ingram, Mrs. Sandy Clark, Dr. Don Cowan and an interview with Dr. Peters from the Ontario Medical Association Archives

## The Honourable Nathaniel Clarke Wallace

By Robert Heath

Besides being a teacher and a businessman, Nathaniel Clarke Wallace was prominent in the Orange Lodge and as a politician. While he was a Member of Parliament, he served as a Cabinet Minister under four Prime Ministers.

Nathaniel Clarke Wallace was born on May 21, 1844, in Burwick (changed to Woodbridge in 1855), Canada West (changed to Ontario in 1867). After finishing his education at the Woodbridge Common School, he attended Weston Grammar School where he graduated in 1863. He spent another year at Weston Grammar School to become a teacher. In 1864, he began teaching at the School Section 13 in Vaughan Township. In 1867, he partnered up with his older brother, Thomas, and started a general store. Two years later, Nathaniel left his teaching position and went fulltime into business. Nathaniel and Thomas diversified their businesses with the most notable business was the Woodbridge Roller Flour Mills, along the Humber River just north of Highway 7.



Nathaniel married Belinda Gilmour, whose father was a Cabinet Minister under Sir John A. MacDonald, in Ottawa in 1877. They had four sons and three daughters. He built a home at 20 Wallace Street in Woodbridge.

Nathaniel's political career started in 1874 when he was elected Reeve of Vaughan Township. In February, 1878, he was also chosen Warden on the York County Council. He held both position until 1879. Weeks after being chosen to the Warden position, he secured the federal Conservative nomination for the riding of York West. In the federal general election of September, 1878, he handily defeated the Liberal incumbent and became the York West Member of Parliament.

Nathaniel's first ten years sitting in the House of Commons were with obscurity. That ended when he took up the populist issue of the day, corporate combines, as he had felt first hand, unfair business and trade practices. Sir John A. MacDonald appointed him to the Cabinet as Chair of Manufactures, Trade and Insurance. His first job created his first Bill the Anti-Combine Investigation Act (Changed to Competition Act in 1888) passed in 1888. His next Bill, passed in 1890, was the Orange Law Act. He remained in this portfolio under Sir John Abbott. In 1892, Sir John Thompson moved him to the Controller of Customs portfolio which he held till 1895, under Sir Mackenzie Bowell. With his stance against the Quebec's Jesuit's Estate Act and the Manitoba School crisis, he resigned from the Cabinet and the Conservative Caucus in 1895 and sat as an Independent. He was re-elected to his seat by a landslide victory. During this election, he campaigned for other candidates, including Samuel Hughes, who became the Minister of Munitions under Sir Robert Borden. He rejoined the Conservative party in the fall of 1898 and being an ardent imperialist, supported Great Britain in the war against the Boers in South Africa. His oldest son, Thomas, enlisted in 1899.

During the summer of 1900, Nathaniel's health declined with the onset of anemia. He died on October 8, 1901 in Ottawa. His funeral and burial, which 6000 mourners attended, was on October 12, 1901, at Christ Church (Anglican) cemetery in Woodbridge, on Islington Avenue North of Highway 7.

His oldest son, Thomas, a Boer War veteran, ran for the Conservatives for the York West riding in 1908, and held that seat till his death in 1921. His youngest son, Lionel, was Reeve of Woodbridge from 1913 to 1921, and the third youngest son, Nathaniel Clarke Wallace Jr. became an Anglican Minister and also a veteran of both World War 1 and 2.

# In Memoriam

Since publication of the last alumni Newsletter in August of 2015, the Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation has been informed of the passing of the alumnae/alumni/staff listed below. Heartfelt condolences are extended to the families and friends of the deceased. Please let us know if we have missed anyone.

Era	Name	Residence	Date
1950s	John Terry Anderson	Burk's Falls	July 18, 2015
1940s	Dr. Jane Cruickshank MD	Weston, ON	October 5, 2015
1950/60s	Sandra (Bannerman) Jones	Kleinburg, ON	October 5, 2015
1950s	Larry Stewart Allen	Weston, ON	October 9, 2015
1940s	Charles 'Chuck' Wardrope	Alliston, ON	October 16, 2015
1950/60s	Mary Ann Glebe	Collingwood, ON	December 8, 2015
1950s	Duncan Harris	London, ON	December 21, 2015
1970s & 90s Principal	Larry Rogers	Toronto, ON	December 27, 2015
1940/50s	Gerald 'Gerry' Stanley	St. Thomas, ON	February 12, 2016
1940s	Mary (Hewson) Morris	Etobicoke, ON	February 21, 2016
1950s	Elisabeth (Coulthard) Gibson	Aurora, ON	March 6, 2016
1940s	Allan Chard	Etobicoke, ON	March 10, 2016
1940/50s	Richard 'Dick' White	Milford, ON	March 23, 2016
1930s	James Cecil Bradford	Orangeville, ON	April 9, 2016
1940/50s	George Frederick 'Fred' Fox	Alliston, ON	May 22, 2016
1950s	Lois (Vaughan) Master	Loretto, ON	July 1, 2016
1950s	Leith Wendy (Ironsides) Elku	Toronto, ON	July 13, 2016
2000s	Mauro Bustelo	Toronto, ON	July 23, 2016



## Treasurer's Report

As Treasurer of the Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation, I would like to once again thank our many generous donors whose gifts each year enable us to support the students now attending Weston Collegiate.

The Foundation honours two students nominated by staff for the Orlando Martini Awards each year. Our 2015 honourees were Natalie Vuong and Shaimaa Helal, two very deserving students who will graduate later this year.

In 2014, the Alumni Foundation created a new award in honour of the late Gary Hamara, who taught English at Weston Collegiate for many years. The inaugural Gary Hamara Memorial Award was presented to Muna Hussein. The award was presented to Sabriyya Bacchus in 2015 and we hope to continue this new tradition in Gary's honour.

Grade 8 students from four area middle schools visit Weston Collegiate each year to learn about the programs available to them as they prepare to select their Secondary School. To build excitement during these visits, the Alumni Foundation has donated Tablets to be awarded as prizes to a lucky student from each of the visiting schools. These gifts serve to identify Weston Collegiate as a school with an active Alumni Foundation.

The Alumni Foundation continues to support student projects and programs such as Drama, Yearbook and the Prom. We are also working with staff and students to support rebuilding the auditorium Podium using the original plaque and wood as part of the new piece, as well as building a new piano bench to accompany the piano refurbished by the Alumni for the music program.

Your continued generosity allows us to achieve our mandate to provide assistance to the student body of our school. Thank you for your support.

Jane Ross  
Treasurer, Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation

# Donations

The Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation (WCAF) gratefully acknowledges receipt of charitable donations in 2015 from the alumni listed hereunder. Persons have been listed in the order in which donations were received. The WCAF respects the privacy of all donors and alumni. We do NOT rent, sell or trade our mailing lists.

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Name of Donor	Residence	Name of Donor	Residence
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